

XVII. *Record of some species of the genus Teracolus occurring in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, W. Africa.* By G. C. DUDGEON, F.E.S.

[Read October 6th, 1915.]

PLATE LXIII.

As far as can be ascertained, but few opportunities have occurred for a study of the Lepidopterous insects found in the ultra-forest zone of the West African region north of the equator. This is probably accounted for by the fact that the forest zone is so rich in species, in comparison with the drier tracts, that more attention has been generally given to the former. The genus with which this paper deals is almost entirely a dry country or desert one, and is but poorly represented within the forest limits. Dr. Aurivillius in Seitz, "Macrolepidoptera of the World," vol. xiii, supplies a general account of the distribution of the known species, and the following list gives the actual records in the West African region to as recent a date as at present available. The present paper adds some further species to the list.

Species in Seitz, "Macrolep." :—

*T. chrysonome* Klug. Bornu (N. Nigeria).

*T. doubledayi* Hpf. Sierra Leone.

*T. amelia* Lucas. Senegal.

*T. protomedia* Klug. Yola (N. Nigeria).

*T. eris* Klug. Senegal.

*T. elgonensis* E. Sharpe. N.W. Cameroons.

*T. eupompe* Klug. Senegal.

*T. achine* Cr. South of Sahara except in W. African forest region.

*T. evippe* L. Sierra Leone (forest region).

*T. omphale* Godt. Senegambia.

Through the courtesy of Capt. Armitage, the Chief Commissioner, I have recently had the opportunity of examining several small collections made by himself in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, a country similarly conditioned to parts of Upper Senegal and Northern Nigeria, where thick bush growth does not exist, except in proximity of the large rivers, and where the

country is open and park-like, covered with green grass in the autumn, but, for the most of the rest of the year, dried or burnt over by grass fires and sparsely dotted with trees mainly belonging to the following genera: *Acacia*, *Pseudocedrela*, *Daniellia*, *Lophira*, *Azelia*, *Butyrospermum* and stunted bush growths of *Bauhinia* and *Combretum*.

It is highly probable that most of the species hitherto recorded from Senegal and N. Nigeria will eventually be obtained from this region, and the present paper does not pretend to be in any way complete.

#### AMATUS GROUP.

1. *T. armitagei*, n. sp. Fig. 3, ♂ upperside; Fig. 3a, ♂ underside; Fig. 4, ♀ upperside.

♂. Both wings white; forewing with a small triangular black spot on the discocellulars and a broad black marginal band, broadest on the costa where it measures 12 mm.; the inner edge of the band excised in interspaces 2, 4 and 5, the excisions filled in with a pale orange-buff suffusion; the following pale orange-buff markings on the black band—a double spot in 1*b* and smaller ones in interspaces 3 and 6, a series of narrow interneural streaks before the margin in interspaces 2 to 7: hindwing, with the broad black marginal band continued, its inner edge erenulate; the following pale orange-buff markings—a large submarginal spot in interspace 6 and traces of spots in 5 and sometimes 7, marginal interneural streaks in interspaces 2 to 6. Underside with the broad black marginal band reproduced as on the upperside on both wings: forewing from the base to nearly the end of the cell orange, the area just beyond white and the markings on the black marginal band lemon-yellow; the submarginal series of spots on the band as follows—a double spot in 1*b*, one each (minute) in 3 and 5 and in 6, 7 and 8, that in 7 narrow; a marginal row of evenly rounded spots increasing in size from interspace 2 to 6 and a similar spot in interspace 7: hindwing with the costa orange as far as the end of vein 8, the light portion of the wing and all the spots lemon-yellow, an orange bar from vein 8 to the origin of vein 7, an L-shaped orange mark in the cell and orange streaks along veins 1*b* and 1*c*; yellow spots on the band in interspaces 5, 6 and 7 and yellow scales in the lower interspaces; a complete marginal series of large rounded yellow spots from 1*b* to 6.

♀. Differs from the male in being without the orange-buff suffusion and in the colour of the markings on the band, which latter are white and reduced in size; two specimens show no interneural

marginal streaks on the upper side of the hindwing. Underside similar to that of the male but paler. Cilia of both wings dark.

*Exp.* 56-60 mm.

*Hab.* Northern Territories, Gold Coast.

This species is described from seven examples obtained by Capt. Armitage. Both sexes bear a close superficial resemblance to the female of *Pieris creona* var. *sigirrensis* Strand, Fig. 5, which is a common insect in the same locality. This species most nearly approaches *catachrysops* (Seitz, xiii, pl. 16c) on the upperside, but the submarginal series of spots on both wings is nearly obsolete, the insect is much larger and the broad black marginal band is identical on the upper and under sides of both wings in *armitagei*; also, only the base of the forewing is orange in this species. Professor Aurivillius regards *catachrysops* as one of the forms of *vesta*, of which species, unless we include *amelia*, Lucas, no form has hitherto been recorded from W. Africa. In some respects *armitagei* has perhaps more affinity to *amelia* than to *catachrysops*, which former species, Aurivillius remarks, is perhaps only another race of *vesta*. In *amelia* the discal band of the hindwing is said to be placed far behind the middle and to be almost confluent with the marginal band, so that the submarginal spots are small. In *armitagei* there is no separable discal band, the only band being the broad marginal one from which the pale spots are for the most part absent. Both species have the cell of the forewing beneath orange, but in *amelia* the veins of the hindwing are said not to be darkened, whereas veins 1b and 1c in *armitagei* are orange where they traverse the pale area. It is probable that *armitagei* may prove to be an extreme form of *amelia*, but I have not had the opportunity of seeing a specimen of the latter, which is only known to me from the short description here referred to.

#### EVIPPE GROUP.

2. *T. ione* Godt. Fig. 1, ♂ upperside; Fig. 1a, ♂ underside; Fig. 2, ♀ upperside; Fig. 2a, ♀ underside.

This insect is apparently common in the spring and early summer in the Northern Territories, numerous specimens of both sexes having been sent me by Capt. Armitage, all of which seem constant. They differ from the figure given in Seitz (pl. 17b), in that the veins on the upperside

of the hindwing are distally black and terminate on the margin in triangular black spots, which are connected by a fine black marginal line (similar to that shown in the figure of *bacchus* (pl. 17b). *The veins of the hindwing on the underside are not black*, which character separates it from *bacchus*. The females are in every case exactly similar to the figure of the female of *bacchus* (Seitz, pl. 17b), and quite unlike that of *ion* shown on the same plate.

### 3. *T. eupompe* Klug.

One female only was received. The characteristic radiating terminal black streaks on both wings, the dark basal suffusion and the discal row of pink spots on the underside of the hindwing are well pronounced in the specimen.

### 4. *T. achine* Cr.

Two males only received which appear to belong to the race *antevippe*, Bdv. The ornamental spot is large, orange and triangular without a proximal black border. There is no hind-marginal stripe, and the underside is white. The hindwings above in both examples have a terminal conjoined row of triangular black spots on the veins.

### 5. *T. evippe* L.

Two males and one female quite typical.

### 6. *T. antigone* Bdv.

A large number of both sexes of this species were received, corresponding completely with the race *phlegetonia*. In some the marginal row of spots on the hindwings consists of a disunited series of triangular marks, in others all are merged into a broad marginal band leaving an interneural series of white streaks.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE LXIII.

- FIG. 1. *Teracolus ione* Godt. ♂, upperside, nat. size.  
 „ 1a. „ „ „ „ underside „  
 „ 2. „ „ „ „ ♀ upperside „  
 „ 2a. „ „ „ „ „ underside „  
 „ 3. „ *armitagei* n. sp. ♂ upperside „  
 „ 3a. „ „ „ „ „ underside „  
 „ 4. „ „ „ „ ♀ upperside „  
 „ 5. *Pieris creona* var. *sigirrensis* ♀, upperside, nat. size.